

Iowa Division of Latino Affairs IDLA Iowa Department of Human Rights

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2007 -2008
February 15, 2009



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IDLA 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Annual Report

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February 15, 2009

The Honorable Chester Culver
The Honorable Patty Judge
Members of the 83rd General Assembly
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Governor Culver, Lieutenant Governor Judge, and Members of the 83rd General Assembly,

The Division of Latino Affairs is pleased to present to you our Annual Report for the 2007-2008 Fiscal year. The following report provides details on accomplishments we achieved.

The mission for the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs is to improve the quality of life of Iowa's Latino population through advocacy, education, legislative recommendations and action, public information and development of programs and services.

If you are interested in our issues or concerns, please feel free to contact the Iowa Division of Latino Affairs or any of our commissioners. We would be happy to assist you.

On behalf of the Latino population, Commissioners and IDLA staff, I would like to thank Governor Culver, Lt. Governor Judge, and Members of the General Assembly for recognizing the contributions of the Latino population.

We are looking to working together in the near future and building the communication across the Latino community. Thanks for all you do and the interest you have in the success of the Latino population.

Sincerely,

Melissa Esquivel
Interim Administrator

Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs Mission & Vision

Mission:

To improve the quality of life of Iowa's Latino population through advocacy, education, legislative recommendations and action, public information and development of programs and services.

Vision:

The Division of Latino Affairs is legislatively mandated to promote and advocate for Iowa Latinos. In the belief that a diverse citizenry enhances our state as a whole, this Commission in conjunction with Iowa Latino/a Citizens shall do the following:

- ☐ **Study, review and make recommendations** for changes in state policies, practices and program development that **negatively affect** Latinos in Iowa.
- ☐ **Strengthen and support efforts** to increase Latino parents' participation in the education of their children, LLP programming, encourage development of appropriate multicultural educational programming in schools, increase minority teachers and staff and **help to close the achievement gap** of our Latino Students.
- ☐ **Increase accessibility** of healthcare and social services for Latinos.
- ☐ **Partner with IWD and IED to strengthen and enhance** the Iowa Latino workforce and assist Iowa Businesses with Latino worker issues, concerns and solutions.
- ☐ **Enhance, strengthen and seek funds** for the appropriate training for Spanish interpreters/translators and **to maintain an updated state interpreters/translators roster.**
- ☐ **Foster, nurture and promote** cultural events, programs and educational forums, conferences and seminars.
- ☐ **Become a major link and information resource center** for Iowa on information and resources about Iowa Latinos and Latinos in general.

Commission Members

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Current Role</u>	<u>Appointment</u>
Paula Martinez	Carlisle	Chair	2001
Angel Gonzalez	Iowa City	Vice-Chair	2006
Sal Alaniz	Mt. Pleasant	Commissioner	2006
Sylvia Lowrance	Marshalltown	Commissioner	2007
Alfred Ramirez	Cedar Rapids	Commissioner	2007
Nancy Dykstra	Hull	Commissioner	2007
Felipe Gallardo	Des Moines	Commissioner	2007
Nathan Blake	Des Moines	Commissioner	2006
Walter Reed	Des Moines	Ex-Officio	

IDLA Staff 2007 – 2008

Armando Villareal	Administrator
Melissa Esquivel	Program Planner
Adriana Munoz	Administrative Assistant
Irene Vega	Part-time employee
Rhonda Talton	Part-time employee
Ivonne Zimmerman	AmeriCorp Vista

What's Happening

Iowa Commission on Latino Affairs

Prepared by Armando Villareal

www.iowalatinofairs.org

Dec. 07—Jan. 08 Report

Iowa youth congress

Iowa student representatives elected from 51 high schools including the Meskwaki Settlement School met on December seventh and eighth, 2007, in Des Moines. They held their second annual daylong session in the Iowa House Chamber.

House Speaker Pat Murphy congratulated the Youth Congress members and spoke on how someday one of them could very well be occupying a seat in the Iowa House Chamber. Senate Assistant Minority Leader Pat Ward encouraged the young representatives to respect each others views and opinions as they deliberate their issues. Representative Wayne Ford reminded the Youth Congress members how Iowa has a long history of being in the forefront on civil rights issues, and Representative Ako Abdul-Samad delivered a prayer and then spoke on the growing diversity and responsibility they face as the next leaders.

Once called to order the Youth Congress went to work on their agenda and elected Devin Farrell as their new president and Nick de la Cruz as their new vice president.

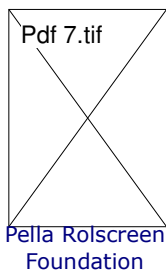


They then ordered and debated the issues brought in from their five regional meetings. In the late afternoon, after much discussion and debate, the Youth Congress moved to vote on which three proposals to present to the second session of the 82nd Iowa General Assembly.

The three proposals adopted by the Iowa Youth Congress: **(1)** Provide comprehensive cultural awareness curriculum. **(2)** Make Sexual Education a permanent part of an existing class like in physical education or social studies. **(3)** Increase the legal age to drop out of school from age 16 to age 18.

dream forward sponsors

**Rockwell
Collins**



Dream forward dinner

On the evening after the Youth Congress met two hundred and eighty guest and youth congress representatives attended the first Dream Forward Dinner.

Lt. Governor Patty Judge spoke at the Dream Forward Dinner. She addressed the Youth Congress Representatives sharing with them how after



high school she decided to study nursing because at the time few options were open to women. She told the story about how she would hear that women weren't meant to hold public office so in 1992 she decided to run for a seat in the Iowa Senate. She won. Then her story went on to be the first woman to be elected Iowa Secretary of Agriculture.

She encouraged the youth to dream, to know that their voice and congress represents the future which is good for Iowa, good for America.

Dagoberto Gilb the Hemingway Award Winning writer read from his work. Macarena Hernandez, Dallas Morning News staff report, read a story which is in the acclaimed book, Hecho en Tejas.

[Click here](#) to see bios.



Iowa Youth Congress Members after dinner dance

Video

More than 10 hours of video were taken of the the Youth Congress session, the Dream Forward Dinner and the planning session.

Three to four video chapters will be produced one of which is a 10-12 minute summary of the Youth Congress session that will be ready in February 2008.

Meeting with Governor's Staff

On 22 January I met with four members of the Governor's staff to discuss HF2026. This particular bill would punish employers for knowingly hiring unauthorized workers.

I suggested that Washington's failure to fix immigration ought to be the focus. That this failure places the state in the awkward situation of having to enact legislation which will undoubtedly place them in the courts. Since the U.S. Constitution specifically gives the federal government the sole responsibility to decide immigration policy.

In Oklahoma, for instance, where a similar law goes into effect next July is seeing in Tulsa County thousands of workers leave, causing rentals vacancies to soar amidst the mortgage debacle. Businesses are closing and the economy there is taking a serious hit. The Tulsa story is happening in Arizona, in Tennessee, in Washington State, and is sure to spread.

An amendment has been introduced to HF2026 which would place the effective date of the proposed law to July 2009 in the hope that the U.S. Congress might by then have a comprehensive immigration plan in the works.

Here is an interview I did with AP which was carried nationally and picked up by the Des Moines Register. [Click here](#)

Made in Iowa

Irene Vega is back from study in France and at work coordinating this video project.

As a way to help bring attention and resources to this project we are working on a pilot video with the [Long Family](#) which we plan to use to promote the documentary to raise funds.

Morgen Halgren has agreed to narrate the pilot video. She is the Iowa Public Television personality that covered the State Fair. She hosted the weekly magazine show, Take O.N.E. for eleven years, and went on to host Living In Iowa for more than a dozen years.

Morgan is also the narrator for the Iowa interpreter Program video.

The Latino Business Breakfast project will host a reception at the State Capitol on March 11th, 2008, 7AM-9AM, first floor-west wing.

Des Moines Police Sargeant **Joe Gonzalez** has been honored by having a state conference room named after him. During the Latino Business reception, a ceremony is planned in which the Governor will drop by and recognize Sargeant Joe for the room naming.

The Latino community is growing at a rate faster than any other group in Iowa. The Latino population in Iowa is estimated to grow to 335,000 by the year 2030 which will make this the largest generational population increase in Iowa history since 1880.



Source: U.S. Census and Iowa Data Center

In 2002 (according to U.S. Census) in Iowa there were 1,536 Latino businesses with 289 million dollars in sale and receipts, which represented a 14% increase in Latino-owned firms and a 24% increase in sales from 1997 to 2002. In 2002 there were 363 Latino businesses with 2,956 paid employees and an annual payroll of 55 million dollars. Latino purchasing power in Iowa was 1.6 billion dollars in 2004, and is projected to increase to 2.7 billion dollars by 2009.

Iowa Interpreter Program

Forty-eight students are enrolled, Spring 08 semester, in the program and which are receiving tuition assistance from us. By June 08 we ought to have 80-85 students which have completed the course in general and in specialized interpreting. Our goal is 95 by the end of this years which goal we ought exceed.

The shooting of the Iowa Interpreter Program has been completed and a rough cut done from which a final 10 minutes promotional video that tells the story of the program will be available in Feb. 08.

Personnel

You might recall that **Melissa Esquivel** began with us as an Ameri-Corp Vista Volunteer back in Summer 2005 and afterwards for more than one year remained on under a special contract. She is now full time with the title of Program Planner I.

Melissa received a certificate of recognition from Governor Culver and Lt. Governor Judge for her work with the Youth Congress.



Melissa Esquivel
and Lt. Governor Judge

Irene Vega returned from France last month after doing study abroad as a student at Simpson College. She is now with us on a special contract to coordinate "Made in Iowa." Irene is a precise match for this project.

Rhonda Talton has joined us, on a part time basis, to work specifically on the Iowa Interpreter Program. Rhonda's work with DMACC fits well for this program.



LATINOS IN IOWA: 2008

In 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a month long celebration (Sept. 15-Oct. 15). During this month, America celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

119,734

The estimated Latino population of Iowa as of July 1, 2007, making people of Latino origin the state's largest race or ethnic minority. Latinos constitute 4.0 percent of the state's total population.

37,261

The numeric change in the Latino population from 2000 to 2007. This is a 45.2 percent increase for the period.

305,900

The projected Latino population of Iowa as of July 1, 2030. According to the 2007 Woods & Poole Economics Inc., Latinos will constitute 9.1 percent of the state's total population on that date.

Families and Children

24,203

The number of Latino families in 2006 who reside in Iowa. Of these families, 73.2 percent include their own children under 18 years of age, compared to 47.8 percent for the state of Iowa.

35.9%

Percentage of Latino grandparents in 2006 who are responsible for their own grandchildren under 18 years of age. This compares to 48.9 percent for the state of Iowa.

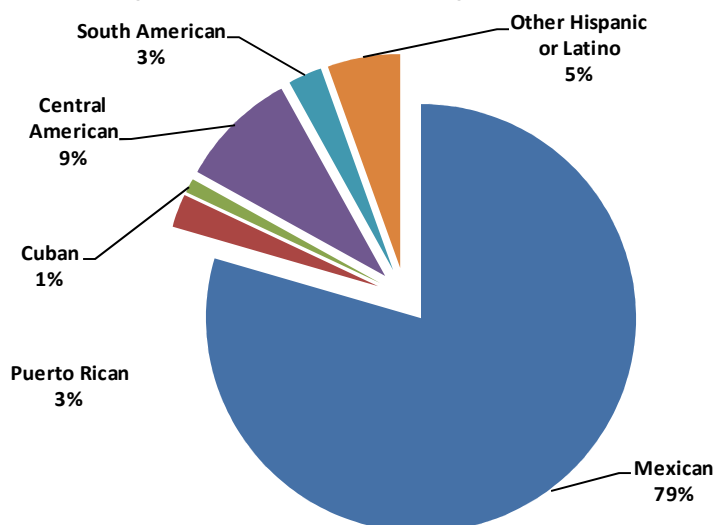
11.5%

Percentage of Latino population under age 5, as of July 1, 2007. Latinos have a higher concentration of pre-schoolers among the population than any other race or ethnic group.

3.39

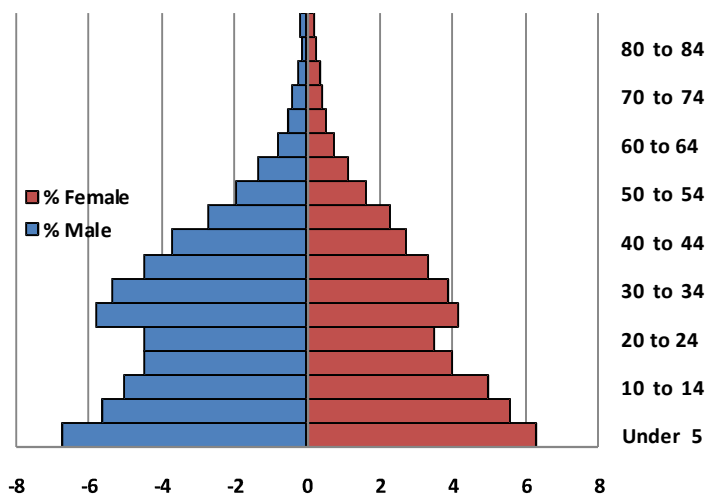
The average family size for the Iowa Latino population in 2006. The average family size in the state of Iowa is 2.92.

Hispanic or Latino Groups in Iowa: 2006

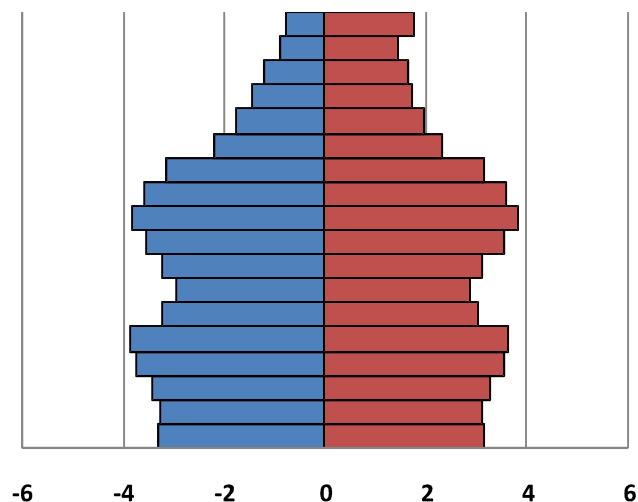


AGE DISTRIBUTION

Iowa Latino Population by Sex and Age: 2007



Iowa Total Population by Sex and Age: 2007



SPANISH LANGUAGE

97,876

The number of Iowa residents age 5 and older in 2006 who speak Spanish at home. Among those who speak Spanish at home, more than half say they speak English "very well."

14,666

The number of Spanish speaking English Language Learners in Iowa's public and non-public schools during the 2007-2008 school year. This represents a 137.0 percent increase from the 1999-2000 school year.

22.8

The median age of Iowa's Latino population in 2006. The median age for the state of Iowa is 37.8.

EDUCATION

33,031

The number Latinos enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2007-2008 school year.

53.4%

The percentage of Iowa Latinos age 25 and over, who had at least a high school education in 2006.

10.2%

The percentage of Iowa Latinos age 25 and over, with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2006.

109.3%

Percent increase in Latino enrollment between the 1999-2000 school year and 2007-2008.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

1,933

Number of Iowa Latinos 25 years and older with an advanced degree in 2006. (e.g., master's, professional, doctorate.)

Coming to America

38.1%

Percentage in 2006 of Iowa's foreign-born population from Latin America. This amounts to 42,831 people.

33,055

The number of foreign-born Iowans in 2006 who were born in Mexico, by far more than any other Latin American country or any other country in the world for that matter. Other Latin American countries of origin with a large foreign-born population are El Salvador (3,054), Caribbean (1,215), Columbia (758) and Brazil (969).

37.9%

The percent of Iowa Latinos in 2006 who are foreign-born.

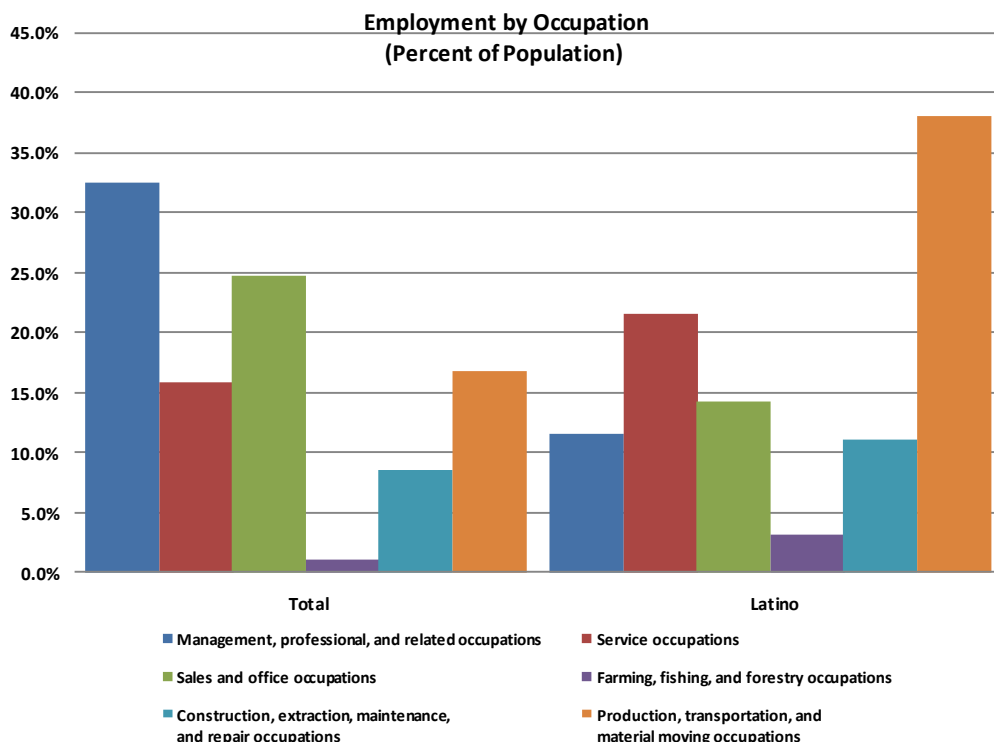
OCCUPATION

38.1%

The percent in 2006 of Iowa Latinos in the production, transportation, and material moving occupations.

5,377

The number of Iowa Latinos in the construction and extraction occupations in 2006. Latinos are represented in a wide variety of occupations. For instance, there are about 3,763 office and administrative support; 1,374 in education, training, and library occupations; 1,511 in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations; and 2687 computer and mathematical occupations.



BUSINESS AND JOBS

1,536

The number of Latino-owned firms in 2002.

87.5%

The percent increase in Latino-owned firms between 1997 and 2002.

7.7%

The unemployment rate for Iowa Latinos in 2005. The Iowa unemployment rate at that time was 5.3%.



INCOME AND POVERTY

\$35,789

The median income of Latino households in 2006. The median household income for the state was \$44,491.

24.5%

The poverty rate for the Latino population in 2006. The corresponding rate for Iowa is 11.0 percent

Serving Our Nation

2,359

The number of Iowa Latino veterans of the U.S. armed forces in 2006.

State Data Center of
Iowa a program of
the State Library of
Iowa

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We're on
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Hispanic or
Latino in- cludes
people of Cu-
ban, Mexican,
Puerto
Rican, South or
Central American,
or other
Spanish culture
or ori-
gin, regardless of
race.

Source: Federal
Regis- ter Notice
(10/30/97,

COUNTIES AND CITIES

26,668

The number of Latinos in
Polk County in 2007,
making it largest popula-
tion of Latinos in any
county.

19.9%

The percent of total popu-
lation in Buena Vista
County who are Latino in

2007. Other Iowa coun-
ties with a high percent-
age of Latinos are Craw-
ford (18.9%), Louisa
(15.8%), Marshall
(13.9%) and Muscatine
(13.6%).

48.1%

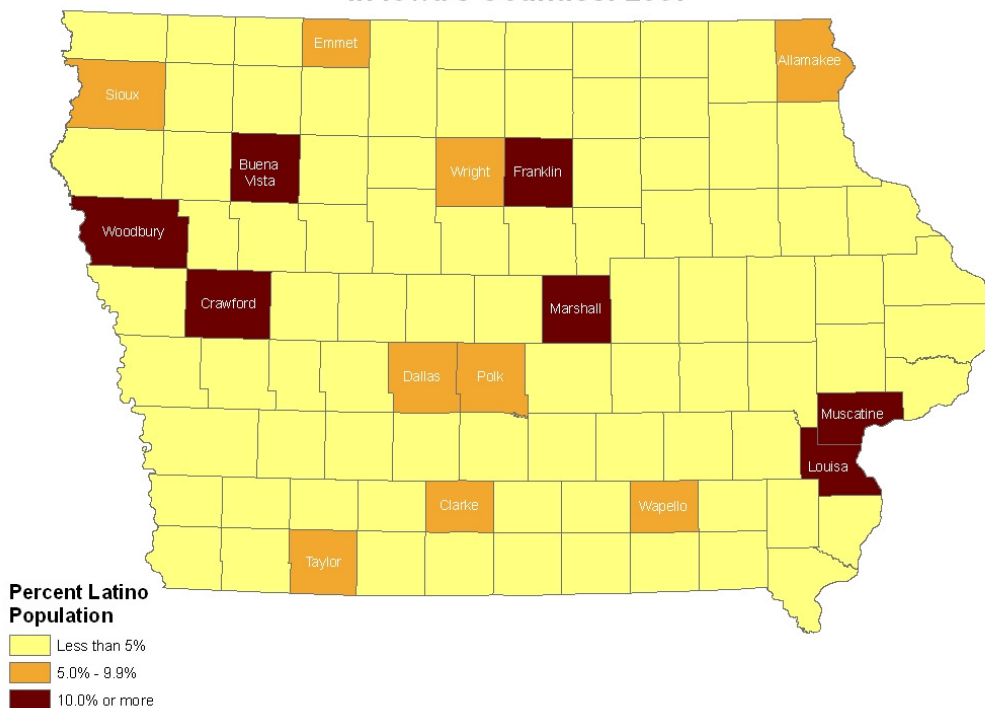
Nearly half of the total
Latino population live in
Polk, Woodbury, Scott,

Muscatine and Marshall
counties.

51.6%

Over half of the growth in
Iowa's Latino population
from 2000-2007 occurred in
six counties: Polk, Wood-
bury, Marshall, Linn, Craw-
ford, and Wapello. The La-
tino population in Wapello
increased by 199.4% be-
tween 2000 and 2007.

Latinos as a Percent of Total Population
in Iowa's Counties: 2007



19,341

The number of Latinos in
Des Moines in 2006,
making it largest popula-
tion of Latinos in any city
in Iowa.

Iowa cities with a high
percentage of Latinos are
West Liberty (40.5%),
Columbus Junction
(39.0%), Columbus City
(33.2%) and Fredonia
(31.5%).

Des Moines, Sioux City,
Davenport, Marshalltown
and Muscatine.

59%

The percent of total popu-
lation in Conesville who
are Latino in 2000. Other

45%

The percentage of Iowa's
total Latino population
living in 5 cities in 2000:

Data Source (unless otherwise noted) :
U.S. Census Bureau,
Photo by Norman Shapiro for the U.S.
Census Bureau

IOWA DIVISION OF LATINO AFFAIRS

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Performance Results Achieved for Fiscal Year 2008

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INTRODUCTION

The Performance Report for Fiscal Year 2008 reflects accomplishments by the Iowa Division of Latino Affairs (IDLA). Information is provided in accordance with the Accountable Government Act to improve decision-making and increase accountability to stakeholders and citizens.

This report includes information from IDLA's FY08 Performance Plan.

A major accomplishment of the year included the continuation of Department of Labor (DOL) funding to assist interpreter students in becoming qualified interpreters through training at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC). Upon completion of training, these individuals are placed on a state wide roster with the Iowa Division of Latino Affairs. Another accomplishment was the success of the Iowa Youth Congress, an annual event, and the legislative measures they proposed to the Iowa General Assembly.

The Commission and staff are continuing to seek ways to improve the outcomes for all Latinos in the state by working on a strategic plan for the agency.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The vision of the IDLA for FY08 was to support the Latino population in Iowa and improve the quality of life for all Iowans. The mission of the Iowa Division of Latino Affairs is to improve the quality of life of Iowa's Latino population through advocacy, education, legislative recommendations and action, public information and development of programs and services.

The Iowa Division of Latino Affairs is situated within the Department of Human Rights which serves as an umbrella agency for eight other advocacy agencies. The Division Administrator is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. The Division Administrator serves as the chief administrative officer of the Commission by gathering and disseminating information, forwarding proposals and evaluations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and state agencies, carrying out public education programs, conducting hearings and conferences, and performing other duties necessary for the proper operation of the commission. The Administrator carries out programs and policies as determined by the Commission of Latino Affairs.

The Commission of Latino Affairs consists of nine members that are appointed by the Governor. Commission members are appointed in compliance with sections 69.16 and 69.16A and with consideration given to geographic residence and density of Latino population represented by each member. The members of the commission are appointed during the month of June and shall serve for terms of two years commencing July 1 of each odd-numbered year. The Director of the Department of Human Rights serves as *ex officio*. The Governor also appoints the Division Administrator, who, by statute, carries out the program and policy as determined by the Commission. The office is on the second floor of the Lucas State Office Building in Des Moines.

The Iowa Division of Latino Affairs had 3 FTE's including the Administrator. In FY2008, IDLA had a state appropriated annual budget of \$191,035 while also receiving Federal Funds through the Department of Labor for the Iowa Interpreter Program in the amount of \$81,120. Revenues were also gathered for the Latino Business Breakfast in the amount of \$200.00 and the Iowa Youth Congress at \$17,633.35.

KEY RESULT

CORE FUNCTION

Name: Advocacy for Latinos

Description: The mission of the Iowa Commission on Latino Affairs is to improve the quality of life of Iowa's Latino population through advocacy, education, legislative recommendations and action, public information and development of programs and services.

Why we are doing this: Iowa's Latino population continues to grow. The Latino population represents 4% of Iowa's current population and is expected to more than triple by 2030, to 12% of the state population. An important need exists to help address language barriers and promote essential communications between Spanish and English speaking Iowans within the courts, the health care field and social services agencies.

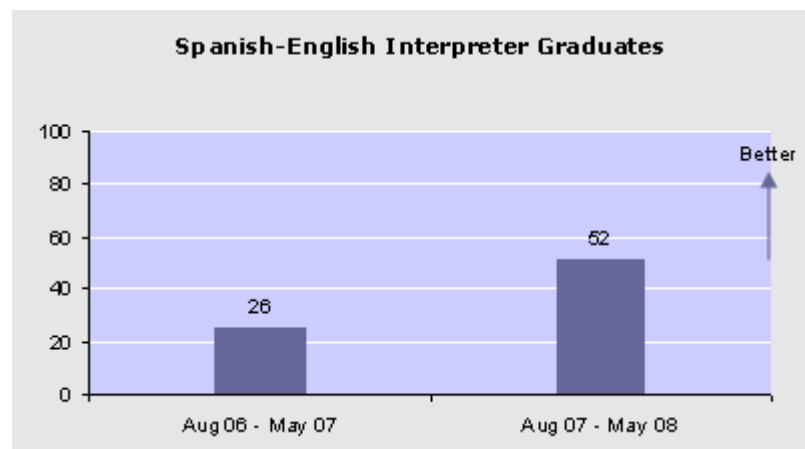
What we're doing to achieve results: The Iowa Interpreter Program was enacted in 2004. The Division of Latino Affairs was charged with creating a standard system to qualify Spanish-English interpreters for generalized and specialized purposes and to maintain a roster of individuals qualified to provide interpreter services for the courts, health care and social services agencies. Latino Affairs has worked with Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) to enroll and graduate qualified interpreters through DMACC. The first enrollees entered the program in August 2006.

Previous Results

Highlighted Measure :

Number of Spanish-English
Interpreter Graduates of the Iowa
Interpreter Program

Updated 5/1/08



Performance Measure:

Number of students who graduated from the interpreter program to become qualified interpreters

Performance Target:

69 qualified interpreters

What was achieved:

In fiscal year 2008, a total of 49 students graduated, making a total of 71 qualified interpreters.

Data Sources:

IDLA and Results Iowa Website

**AGENCY PERFORMANCE PLAN RESULTS
FY 2008**

Agency Mission: To improve the quality of life of Iowa's Latino population through advocacy, education, legislative recommendations and action, public information and development of programs and services.

Core Function: Advocacy

Performance Measure (outcome)	Target	Actual	Performance Comment & Analysis
1. Ratio of qualified interpreters to target population	1/2000	1/1686	What Occurred: A total of 71 graduates have completed the interpreter program to become qualified interpreters. Data Source: Iowa Division of Latino Affairs website
2. Percentage of requests met	90%	n/a	What Occurred: Staff responded to all requests made over the phone, emails and walk-ins. Data Source: Iowa Division of Latino Affairs website

Service, Product or Activity:

Performance Measure	Target	Actual	Performance Comment & Analysis
1. Number of Interpreter Graduates	65	49	What Occurred: IDLA held two graduation ceremonies to present the graduates with a certification of completion. Once graduated, students were added to the Iowa Statewide Interpreter Roster. Since the program was funded we have had a total of 71 graduates. Data Source: Iowa Division of Latino Affairs website
2. Number of students participating.	200	117	What Occurred: The Iowa Youth Congress held their 2 nd Annual event, convening in the Iowa House Chambers in which they later proposed 3 bills to the

3. Percentage of student feeling empowered.	90%	95%	Iowa General Assembly. Increasing the drop out age to 18 is currently a live bill. Data Source: Iowa General Assembly website and Iowa Youth Congress Website
4. Number of persons benefiting from information and education	4,000	n/a	What Occurred: IDLA worked in collaborative efforts and participated in councils to serve or represent the Latino population.
5. Number of state agencies assisted	15	22	Data Source: IDLA website
6. Number of targeted small businesses certified	50	50	What Occurred: Latino businesses became aware of certifications and completed their certification as a targeted small business.
7. Number of business owners participating.	200	n/a	Data Source: Certified Targeted Small Businesses by Iowa Department of Inspection and Appeals website

RESOURCE REALLOCATIONS

None.

AGENCY CONTACTS

A copy of the report can be obtained by contacting Melissa Esquivel at 515/281-7015 or 515-281-4080.

Iowa Division of Latino Affairs
Department of Human Rights
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines IA 50319